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(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to upgrade the major panchayats into III grade municipalities?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister: (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, the major panchayats are suffering from handicaps by joining the panchayat unions. Will the Government see that at least the major panchayats are given more facilities as the municiaplities?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: What I said about municipalities applies also to panchayats. The Government are always watching the financial resources of these local bodies and they go to their assistance whenever necessary. As I said, it is not necessary to earmark any portion of the revenue for this purpose.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, as it is, the major panchayats are not getting Government assistance for any special work as the municipalities are getting. Will the Government, therefore, see that at least in future the major panchayats are given assistance?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The hon. Member may specify what are the types of work for which assistance is required. In that case, the Government will be able to examine and say what type of assistance is given and could be given.

Release of Communist leaders

* 116 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any order has been issued recently by the Government for the release of 12 Communist leaders from the prisons in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. Twelve long-term prisoners belonging to the Communist Party of India who were convicted prior to 1953 for offences inspired by political motives, were recently ordered to be released by Government on a review of their cases, taking into account various factors like the period spent as under-trials, the portion of the sentence they had already served, and the remission earned.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Sir, what are the points which the Government considered in the matter of the reduction of the full term?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: As I have already explained, the term already served, their conduct in jail, and the remission they earned were all considered by the Government and they thought that these twelve prisoners could be released.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, has the release any political basis, as there is a sort of alignment between the Communists and the party in power?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether it is a proper question. It has nothing to do with the Government in their administrative capacity.

Prohibition crimes

*117 Q.—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether trained dogs are being used to detect Prohibition crimes;

(b) if so, the number of dogs so used; and

(c) the number of cases detected from 1st January 1962 till date?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four dogs were used in April 1962.

(c) Seventeen cases.

வித்துவான் டி. முத்துக்கண்ணப்பன்: ஐயா, மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்கள் ஆட்கள்மூலமாகக் கண்டுபிடிப்பதைவிட நாய்கள்மூலம் தெளிவாகவும் நிச்சயமாகவும் கண்டுபிடிக்க முடிகிறதென்பது உண்மையா? அப்படியானல் அப்படிப்பட்ட நாய்களின் எண்ணிக்கையை அதிகப்படுத்த ஏதாவது உத்தேசமுண்டா?

கனம் திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்ராமன்: ஓரளவு நாய்கள் மோப்பம் பிடிப்பதன்மூலம் இவைகளைக் கண்டுபிடிக்க முடிகிறது. எந்த அளவுக்கு அவற்றை உபயோகப்படுத்த முடியுமோ அந்த அளவுக்கு உபயோகப்படுத்தப்படுகிறது.

Non-teaching staff

*118 Q.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government in February 1961 from the non-teaching staff of the private secondary schools in Kanyakumari district for extending the pay scales, allowances and fee concessions given to non-teaching staff in other districts to them; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, the Government have been kind enough to enforce the recommendations of the Pay Commission in the case of teachers serving the private secondary